

(2) ensure that compensation, retention, and tenure are contingent on executive success which is measured on the basis of individual and organizational performance (including such factors as improvements in efficiency, productivity, quality of work or service, cost efficiency, and timeliness of performance and success in meeting equal employment opportunity goals);

(3) assure that senior executives are accountable and responsible for the effectiveness and productivity of employees under them;

(4) recognize exceptional accomplishment;

(5) enable the head of an agency to reassign senior executives to best accomplish the agency's mission;

(6) provide for severance pay, early retirement, and placement assistance for senior executives who are removed from the Senior Executive Service for nondisciplinary reasons;

(7) protect senior executives from arbitrary or capricious actions;

(8) provide for program continuity and policy advocacy in the management of public programs;

(9) maintain a merit personnel system free of prohibited personnel practices;

(10) ensure accountability for honest, economical, and efficient Government;

(11) ensure compliance with all applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations, including those related to equal employment opportunity, political activity, and conflicts of interest;

(12) provide for the initial and continuing systematic development of highly competent senior executives;

(13) provide for an executive system which is guided by the public interest and free from improper political interference; and

(14) appoint career executives to fill Senior Executive Service positions to the extent practicable, consistent with the effective and efficient implementation of agency policies and responsibilities.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, § 402(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1154.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 415 of title IV of Pub. L. 95-454 provided that: "(a)(1) The provisions of this title, other than sections 413 and 414(a) [enacting this subchapter and sections 2101a, 3391 to 3397, 3591 to 3595, 4311 to 4315, 4507, 5381 to 5385, 5752, and 7541 to 7543 of this title, amending sections 2102, 2103, 2108, 3109, 3501, 5311, 5331, 5504, 5541, 5595, 5723, 6304, 8336, and 8339 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 5311 of this title], shall take effect 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 1978].

"(2) The provisions of section 413 of this title [set out as a note under section 3133 of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 1978].

"(3) The provisions of section 414(a) of this title [amending sections 3104 and 5108 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 3104 and 5108 of this title] shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 1978].

"(b)(1) The amendments made by sections 401 through 412 of this title [enacting this subchapter and sections 2101a, 3391 to 3397, 3591 to 3595, 4311 to 4315, 4507, 5381 to 5385, 5752, and 7541 to 7543 of this title, amending sections 2102, 2103, 2108, 3109, 3501, 5311, 5331, 5504, 5541, 5595,

5723, 6304, 8336, and 8339 of this title] shall continue to have effect unless, during the first period of 60 calendar days of continuous session of the Congress beginning after 5 years after the effective date of such amendments, a concurrent resolution is introduced and adopted by the Congress disapproving the continuation of the Senior Executive Service. Such amendments shall cease to have effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the adoption of such concurrent resolution.

"(2) The continuity of a session is broken only by an adjournment of the Congress sine die, and the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain are excluded in the computation of the 60-day period.

"(3) The provisions of subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of section 5305 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply with respect to any concurrent resolution referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, except that for the purpose of this paragraph the reference in such subsection (e) to 10 calendar days shall be considered a reference to 30 calendar days.

"(4) During the 5-year period referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall include in each report required under section 3135 of title 5, United States Code (as added by this title) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Senior Executive Service and the manner in which such Service is administered."

#### CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS RESPECTING CONTINUATION OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE

Pub. L. 98-615, title III, § 301, Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3217, provided that: "The Congress finds that the Senior Executive Service should be continued indefinitely."

#### § 3132. Definitions and exclusions

(a) For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) "agency" means an Executive agency, except a Government corporation and the Government Accountability Office, but does not include—

(A) any agency or unit thereof excluded from coverage by the President under subsection (c) of this section; or

(B) the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, Department of Defense intelligence activities the civilian employees of which are subject to section 1590 of title 10, and, as determined by the President, an Executive agency, or unit thereof, whose principal function is the conduct of foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities;

(C) the Federal Election Commission or the Election Assistance Commission;

(D) the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision,<sup>1</sup> the Resolution Trust Corporation, the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the National Credit Union Administration, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and the Office of Financial Research;

(E) the Securities and Exchange Commission; or

(F) the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

(2) "Senior Executive Service position" means any position in an agency which is clas-

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

sified above GS-15 pursuant to section 5108 or in level IV or V of the Executive Schedule, or an equivalent position, which is not required to be filled by an appointment by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and in which an employee—

(A) directs the work of an organizational unit;

(B) is held accountable for the success of one or more specific programs or projects;

(C) monitors progress toward organizational goals and periodically evaluates and makes appropriate adjustments to such goals;

(D) supervises the work of employees other than personal assistants; or

(E) otherwise exercises important policy-making, policy-determining, or other executive functions;

but does not include—

(i) any position in the Foreign Service of the United States; or

(ii) an administrative law judge position under section 3105 of this title;

(3) “senior executive” means a member of the Senior Executive Service;

(4) “career appointee” means an individual in a Senior Executive Service position whose appointment to the position or previous appointment to another Senior Executive Service position was based on approval by the Office of Personnel Management of the executive qualifications of such individual;

(5) “limited term appointee” means an individual appointed under a nonrenewable appointment for a term of 3 years or less to a Senior Executive Service position the duties of which will expire at the end of such term;

(6) “limited emergency appointee” means an individual appointed under a nonrenewable appointment, not to exceed 18 months, to a Senior Executive Service position established to meet a bona fide, unanticipated, urgent need;

(7) “noncareer appointee” means an individual in a Senior Executive Service position who is not a career appointee, a limited term appointee, or a limited emergency appointee;

(8) “career reserved position” means a position which is required to be filled by a career appointee and which is designated under subsection (b) of this section; and

(9) “general position” means any position, other than a career reserved position, which may be filled by either a career appointee, noncareer appointee, limited emergency appointee, or limited term appointee.

(b)(1) For the purpose of paragraph (8) of subsection (a) of this section, the Office shall prescribe the criteria and regulations governing the designation of career reserved positions. The criteria and regulations shall provide that a position shall be designated as a career reserved position only if the filling of the position by a career appointee is necessary to ensure impartiality, or the public’s confidence in the impartiality, of the Government. The head of each agency shall be responsible for designating career reserved positions in such agency in accordance with such criteria and regulations.

(2) The Office shall periodically review general positions to determine whether the positions

should be designated as career reserved. If the Office determines that any such position should be so designated, it shall order the agency to make the designation.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, any position to be designated as a Senior Executive Service position (except a position in the Executive Office of the President) which—

(A) is under the Executive Schedule, or for which the rate of basic pay is determined by reference to the Executive Schedule, and

(B) on the day before the date of the enactment of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 was specifically required under section 2102 of this title or otherwise required by law to be in the competitive service,

shall be designated as a career reserved position if the position entails direct responsibility to the public for the management or operation of particular government programs or functions.

(4) Not later than March 1 of each year, the head of each agency shall publish in the Federal Register a list of positions in the agency which were career reserved positions during the preceding calendar year.

(c) An agency may file an application with the Office setting forth reasons why it, or a unit thereof, should be excluded from the coverage of this subchapter. The Office shall—

(1) review the application and stated reasons,

(2) undertake a review to determine whether the agency or unit should be excluded from the coverage of this subchapter, and

(3) upon completion of its review, recommend to the President whether the agency or unit should be excluded from the coverage of this subchapter.

If the Office recommends that an agency or unit thereof be excluded from the coverage of this subchapter, the President may, on written determination, make the exclusion for the period determined by the President to be appropriate.

(d) Any agency or unit which is excluded from coverage under subsection (c) of this section shall make a sustained effort to bring its personnel system into conformity with the Senior Executive Service to the extent practicable.

(e) The Office may at any time recommend to the President that any exclusion previously granted to an agency or unit thereof under subsection (c) of this section be revoked. Upon recommendation of the Office, the President may revoke, by written determination, any exclusion made under subsection (c) of this section.

(f) If—

(1) any agency is excluded under subsection (c) of this section, or

(2) any exclusion is revoked under subsection (e) of this section,

the Office shall, within 30 days after the action, transmit to the Congress written notice of the exclusion or revocation.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, §402(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1155; amended Pub. L. 96-54, §2(a)(12), Aug. 14, 1979, 93 Stat. 382; Pub. L. 96-187, title II, §203, Jan. 8, 1980, 93 Stat. 1368; Pub. L. 100-325, §2(c), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 581;

Pub. L. 101-73, title VII, §742(c), Aug. 9, 1989, 103 Stat. 437; Pub. L. 101-509, title V, §529 [title I, §101(b)(9)(A)], Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1427, 1441; Pub. L. 101-624, title XVIII, §1841, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3835; Pub. L. 102-496, title IV, §402(b), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3184; Pub. L. 102-550, title XIII, §1351(b), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3969; Pub. L. 103-359, title V, §501(d), Oct. 14, 1994, 108 Stat. 3429; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title XI, §1122(a)(1), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2687; Pub. L. 107-123, §8(d)(1)(B), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2399; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10702(c)(1), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 517; Pub. L. 107-252, title VIII, §811(b), Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1727; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814; Pub. L. 110-289, div. A, title I, §1161(g)(2), July 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2781; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title IX, §931(a)(1), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4575; Pub. L. 111-203, title I, §152(d)(4), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 1414.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Level IV or V of the Executive Schedule, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), are set out in sections 5315 and 5316 of this title.

The date of the enactment of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), is the date of the enactment of Pub. L. 95-454, which was approved Oct. 13, 1978.

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 111-203 substituted “the National Credit Union Administration, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and the Office of Financial Research;” for “and the National Credit Union Administration;”.

2008—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 110-417 substituted “National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency” for “National Imagery and Mapping Agency”.

Pub. L. 110-289, §1161(g)(2)(A), substituted “, and” for “, and”.

Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 110-289, §1161(g)(2)(B), struck out “the Federal Housing Finance Board” after “the Office of Thrift Supervision,” substituted “the Federal Housing Finance Agency” for “the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development”, and struck out “or or” at end.

Subsec. (a)(1)(E), (F). Pub. L. 110-289, §1161(g)(2)(C), (D), inserted “or” at end of subpar. (E), relating to Securities and Exchange Commission, and redesignated subpar. (E), relating to Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as (F).

2004—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in introductory provisions.

2002—Subsec. (a)(1)(C). Pub. L. 107-252, §811(b), inserted “or the Election Assistance Commission” after “Commission”.

Pub. L. 107-171, §10702(c)(1)(A), which directed amendment by striking “or” at the end, could not be executed because the word “or” did not appear at the end. See below.

Pub. L. 107-123, §8(d)(1)(B)(i), struck out “or” at end. Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 107-171, §10702(c)(1)(B), inserted “or” at end.

Pub. L. 107-123, §8(d)(1)(B)(ii), inserted “or” at end. Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 107-171, §10702(c)(1)(C), added subpar. (E) relating to Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Pub. L. 107-123, §8(d)(1)(B)(iii), added subpar. (E) relating to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

1996—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 104-201 substituted “National Imagery and Mapping Agency” for “Central Imagery Office”.

1994—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 103-359 inserted “the Central Imagery Office,” after “Defense Intelligence Agency,”.

1992—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 102-496 inserted “, Department of Defense intelligence activities the civilian employees of which are subject to section 1590 of title 10,” after “National Security Agency”.

Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 102-550 inserted “the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development,” after “Farm Credit Administration,”.

1990—Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 101-624 inserted reference to Farm Credit Administration.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 101-509 substituted “classified above GS-15 pursuant to section 5108” for “in GS-16, 17, or 18 of the General Schedule”.

1989—Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 101-73 added subpar. (D).

1988—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 100-325, §2(c)(1), inserted reference to Drug Enforcement Administration.

Subsec. (a)(2)(iii). Pub. L. 100-235, §2(c)(2), struck out cl. (iii) which read as follows: “any position in the Drug Enforcement Administration which is excluded from the competitive service under section 201 of the Crime Control Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 5108 note; 90 Stat. 2425);”.

1980—Subsec. (a)(1)(C). Pub. L. 96-187 added subpar. (C).

1979—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 96-54 inserted “and,” after “Security Agency,”.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-203 effective 1 day after July 21, 2010, except as otherwise provided, see section 4 of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as an Effective Date note under section 5301 of Title 12, Banks and Banking.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-289, div. A, title I, §1163, July 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2782, provided that: “Except as otherwise specifically provided in this title [see Tables for classification], this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on, and shall apply beginning on, the date of enactment of this Act [July 30, 2008].”

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-252 effective upon appointment of all members of the Election Assistance Commission under section 15323 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, see section 15534(a) of Title 42.

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-123 effective Oct. 1, 2001, see section 11 of Pub. L. 107-123, set out as a note under section 78ee of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-201 effective Oct. 1, 1996, see section 1124 of Pub. L. 104-201, set out as a note under section 193 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-509 effective on such date as the President shall determine, but not earlier than 90 days, and not later than 180 days, after Nov. 5, 1990, see section 529 [title III, §305] of Pub. L. 101-509, set out as a note under section 5301 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-187 effective on Jan. 8, 1980, see section 301(a) of Pub. L. 96-187, set out as a note under section 431 of Title 2, The Congress.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-54 effective July 12, 1979, see section 2(b) of Pub. L. 96-54, set out as a note under section 305 of this title.

### §3133. Authorization of positions; authority for appointment

(a) During each even-numbered calendar year, each agency shall—

(1) examine its needs for Senior Executive Service positions for each of the 2 fiscal years beginning after such calendar year; and